

REMARKS

In the pending Office Action, the following allowable subject matter was noted (1) Claims 1-15 were allowed; and (2) Claims 16-19 and 25-26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome specified rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph. Additionally, Claims 23-24 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,274,038 ("Reid") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,548,054 ("Worley et al.").

In response to the above, applicants have amended independent Claims 16 and 23. Accordingly, Claims 1-26 and 28 are pending in the present application. Of these claims, Claims 20-22 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a nonelected invention. For the reasons discussed in more detail below, applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 16-19, 23-26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 112

Independent Claim 16 (Dependent Claims 17-19 and 25-26)

Claim 16 was rejected as being indefinite "for failing to particularly point out particular structures between a base and a purifier vessel that allows untreated water to enter the purifier vessel from the sides of the opening of the purifier vessel." In response, applicants have amended Claim 16 to further recite that "said ring member has a base that is elevated above and substantially covers the opening of the purifier vessel." By doing so, Claim 16 provides additional clarification regarding the structural cooperative relationship between the ring member and the opening of the purifier vessel. Additionally, Claim 16, as amended, further clarifies the structural cooperative relationship between the ring member and the purifier vessel by reciting "wherein said purifier vessel is in fluid flow communication with said ring member." Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16, as amended, adequately specifies the structural cooperative relationship between the ring member and the purifier vessel.

Claim 16 was also rejected as being indefinite "for failing to particularly point out a purifier vessel in fluid communication with a dwell chamber to provide treated water of purifier vessel to flow to a dwell chamber." In response, Claim 16 as amended now recites "a dwell chamber in fluid flow communication with said purifier vessel."

In light of the above discussed amendments, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is now in condition for allowance. Further, since Claims 17-19 and 25-26 depend upon Claim 16, they too should now be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 23 (Dependent Claims 24 and 28)

Claim 23 was rejected as being indefinite "for failing to particularly point out a purifier vessel in fluid communication with a dwell chamber to provide treated water of purifier vessel to flow to a dwell chamber." In response, Claim 23 as amended now recites "a dwell chamber in fluid flow communication with said purifier vessel."

Rejection of Claims 23-24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Independent Claim 23 (Dependent Claims 24 and 28)

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reid in view of Worley et al. Reid teaches a filter cartridge designed to be "connected to a water supply at the influent portion 18 of the influent passage and to a downstream device at the effluent portion 16 of the effluent passage." (See Col. 2-3, line 66-2.) When one considers this passage in combination with the general configuration of the filter cartridge disclosed, it is apparent that the filter cartridge of Reid is designed to work in conjunction with a pressurized water supply so as to provide the necessarily present differential in pressure between the influent portion 18 and the effluent portion 16. In particular, Reid discloses a filter cartridge where the effluent portion 16 is not located below the influent portion 18, thereby requiring the differential in pressure discussed

above to support flow of water out of the filter cartridge. Therefore, Reid does not teach or remotely suggest a filter cartridge that operates by gravity.

In response to this rejection, applicants have amended independent Claim 23, upon which Claims 24 and 28 depend, to recite that (1) said purifier vessel comprises a water inlet; and (2) said dwell chamber comprises a water outlet, wherein water flows from said water inlet and out through said water outlet under the force of gravity. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23, as amended, contains an element not taught or even remotely suggested by Reid, namely a water purification cartridge where water flows between a water inlet and a water outlet under the force of gravity. Further, Worley et al. does not teach or suggest how or why the filter of Reid could be converted into a gravity fed water purification cartridge. Therefore, even a hypothetical combination of Reid and Worley et al. does not disclose all of the claim elements of Claim 23. As a result, the water purification cartridges of Claim 23 cannot be obtained by any combination or modification according to any teaching of Worley et al. with Reid. For at least the reasons discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23, as amended, should now be in condition for allowance. Since Claims 24 and 28 depend from Claim 23, they too should now be in condition for allowance.

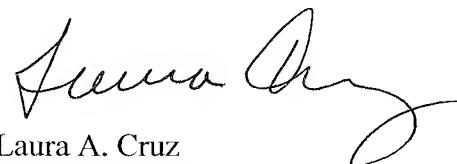
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. If any further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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